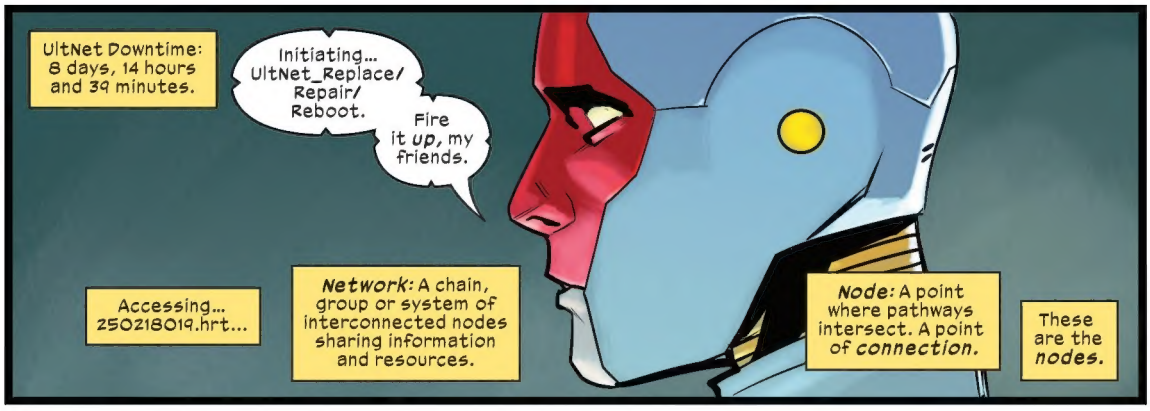
MARVEL

THE ULTIMATES

20

CAMP | NOTO | DELGADO

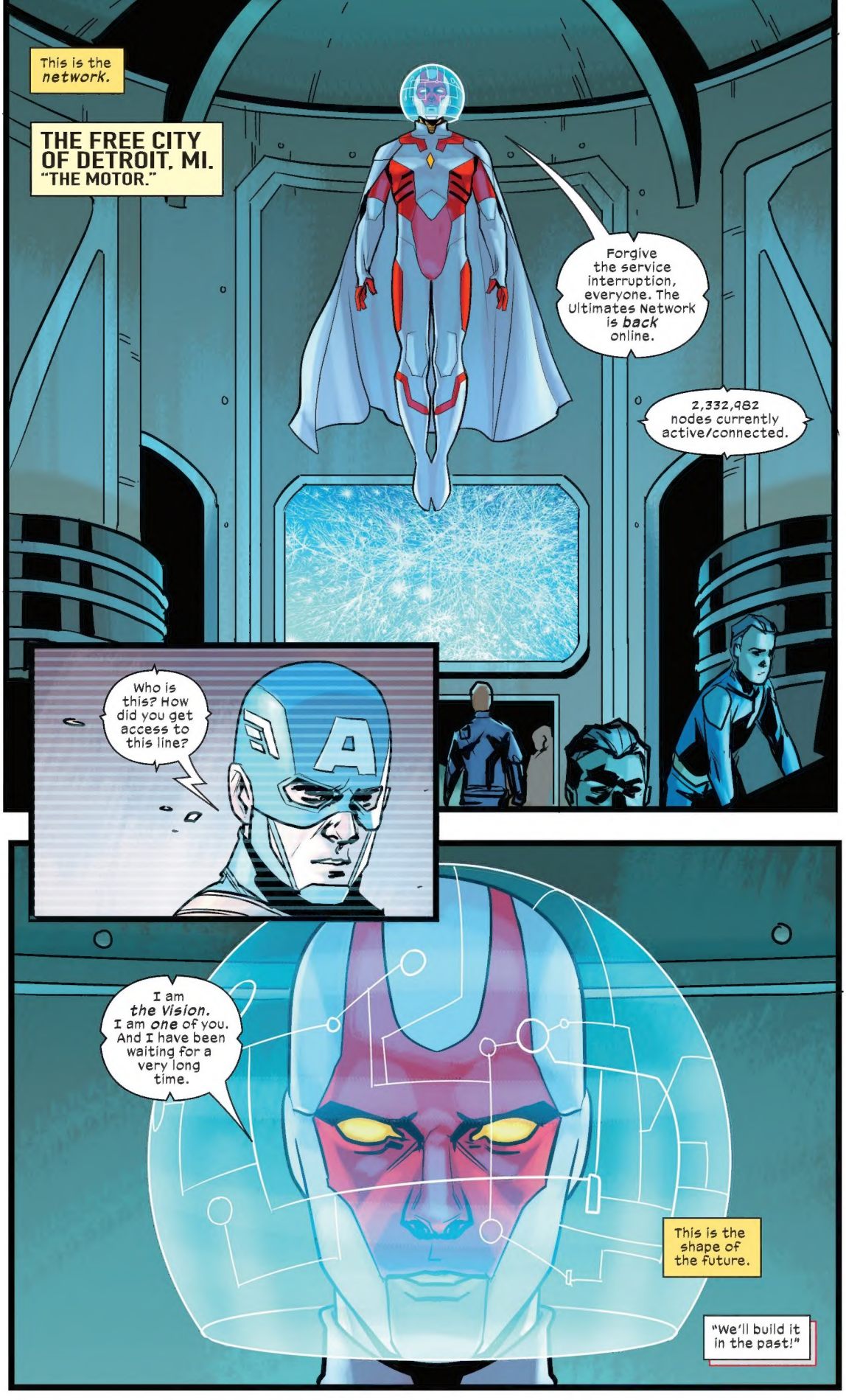
JAN. 2026 | RATED T+

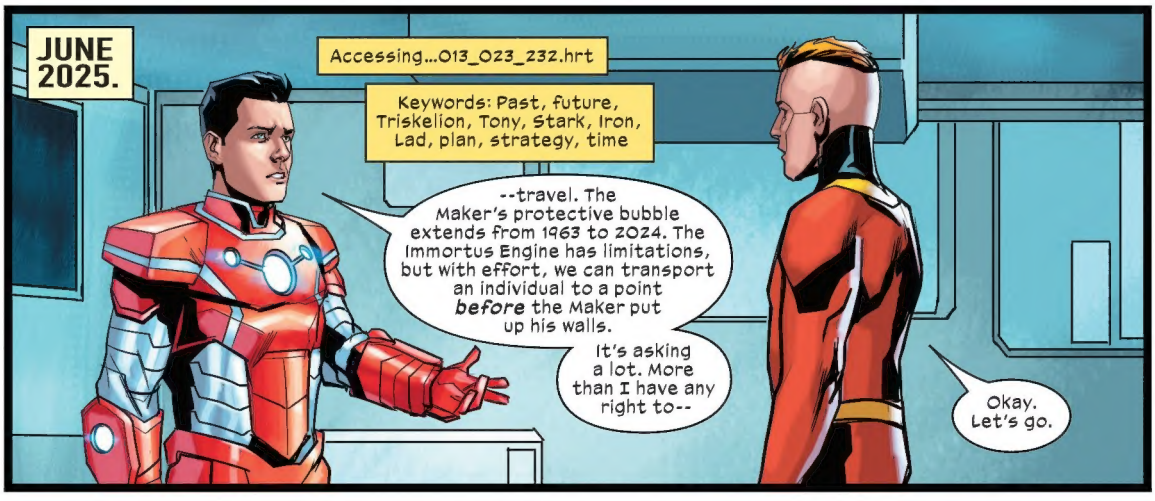

UltNet Downtime: 8 days, 14 hours and 39 minutes.
Initiating... UltNet_Replace/ Repair/ Reboot.
Fire it up, my friends.
Accessing... 250218019.hrt...
Network: A chain, group or system of interconnected nodes sharing information and resources.
Node: A point where pathways intersect. A point of connection.
These are the nodes.

Node 3 online.
Captain America. Alone, cut off. Roads guarded by trolls, forests infiltrated by Ents. Chance of survival: 17%
Corollary: Absent UltNet, coordination of Captain America's 11,849 irregulars nearly impossible.
Traditional communication methods insecure, and four telepathic "Avengers" attempting to coordinate have been torn to shreds by psychic hounds bred in Avalon myth-mills for the purpose.
Collective chance of survival (11,849 nodes): 8%
You are now connected to the Ultimates Network.

Node 4,371 online.
Wingspan. Lacking up-to-date intelligence and facing similar communication difficulties, the Ultimate Avengers have been halted by counterrevolutionary forces in Kentucky. I have intercepted a communique concerning reinforcements en route from the North. They plan to crush Cage's Avengers between them.
Chance of survival: 10%
You are now connected to the Ultimates Network.
Yes!

Node 29,842 online.
Wren Montgomery. Alone, H.A.N.D. agents hunt down anyone with suspected Ultimate connections. Thousands murdered in the streets--they dispose of everything, even the illusion of due process. Chance of survival: <.01%
You are now connected to the Ultimates Network.
Oh thank god!
These are the nodes. Living, dying, fighting.


This is the network.
THE FREE CITY OF DETROIT, MI.
"THE MOTOR."
Forgive the service interruption, everyone. The Ultimates Network is back online.
2,332,982 nodes currently active/connected.
Who is this? How did you get access to this line?
I am the Vision. I am one of you. And I have been waiting for a very long time.
This is the shape of the future.
"We'll build it in the past!"


JUNE 2025.
Accessing...013_023_232.hrt
Keywords: Past, future, Triskelion, Tony, Stark, Iron, Lad, plan, strategy, time
--travel. The Maker's protective bubble extends from 1963 to 2024. The Immortus Engine has limitations, but with effort, we can transport an individual to a point ***before*** the Maker put up his walls.
It's asking a lot. More than I have any right to--
Okay. Let's go.

Immortus, Engine, duty, sacrifice, fare, well, good, bye
Tell them I went to start the fire.

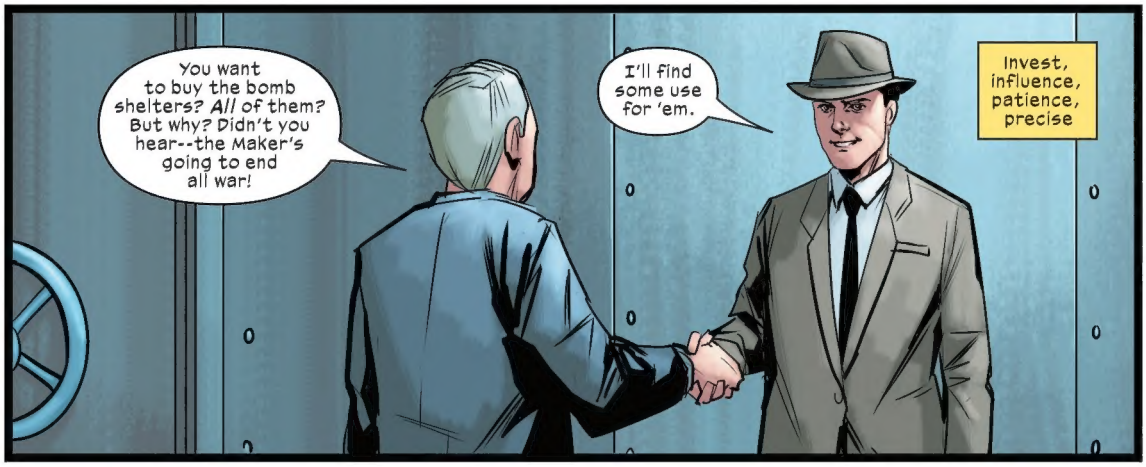
1947.
Fear, excitement, nostalgia, home

Hello, self, surprise, explanation, acceptance
It is the only way we can see to go about it.
Yes, I concur. The fate of the world requires it.
A shame. I hoped to do more.

Memory, manual, erase, death, birth, father, Horton
"You will."
good, bye

Accessing...
Mission: Lay groundwork for revolution *without* creating ripple effect that destroys future. Self *included.*
Change *everything* without changing *anything.*

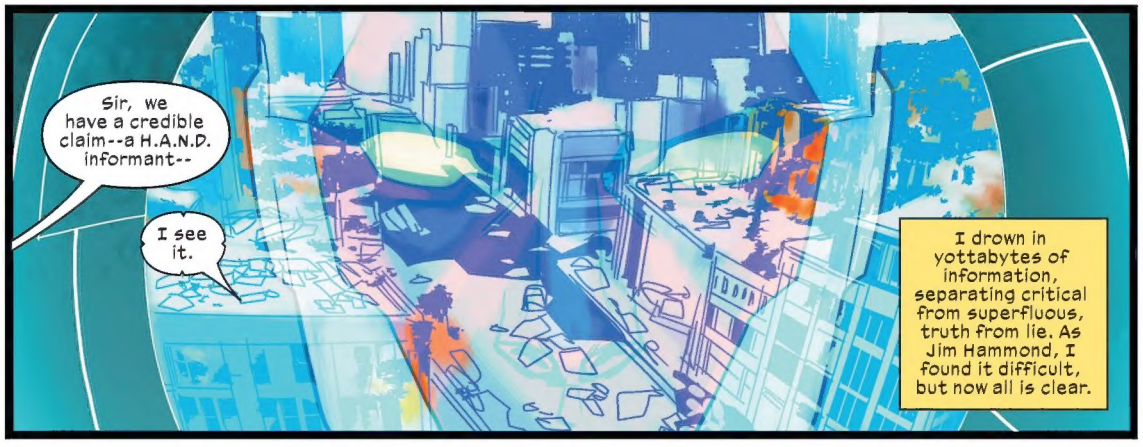
1963.
Accessing...
Keywords: slow, grow, decades, polish
--the Maker! He says he's come to make a better world!
SALE
Sounds good to me!
I don't know. Didn't Hitler say the same thing?


You want to buy the bomb shelters? *All* of them? But why? Didn't you hear--the Maker's going to end all war!
I'll find some use for 'em.
Invest, influence, patience, precise

Namor, execution, rage, control, emotion, resist

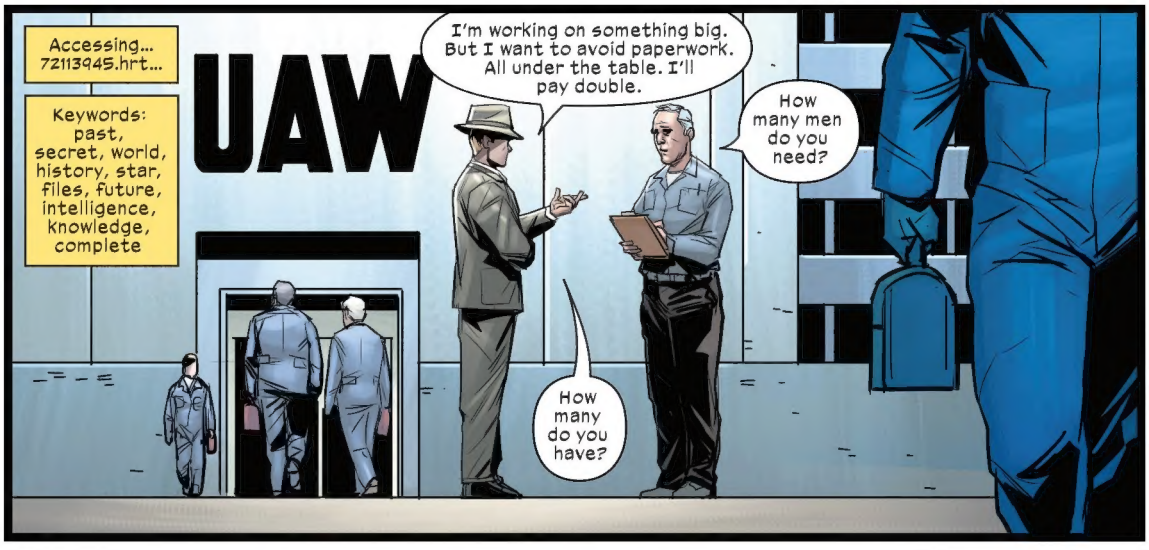
Resist, resist, resist

JANUARY 2026.
Accessing...realtime thoughtfeed...
I am creating a diversion two miles to your east, Steve. Rendezvous with unit 24 at the encrypted coordinates.
...Jim? Is that you? Where have you been? You sound different.
I am different, Steve.
The Ultimates Network is a river running through my mind.


Sir, we have a credible claim--a H.A.N.D. informant--
I see it.
I drown in yottabytes of information, separating critical from superfluous, truth from lie. As Jim Hammond, I found it difficult, but now all is clear.

Accessing/ intercepted-decoded communique: Incredible Hulk to Director of H.A.N.D.
This business in Detroit is bad for our image. Make an example out of them, Fury.
It's very simple when you know what to look for.

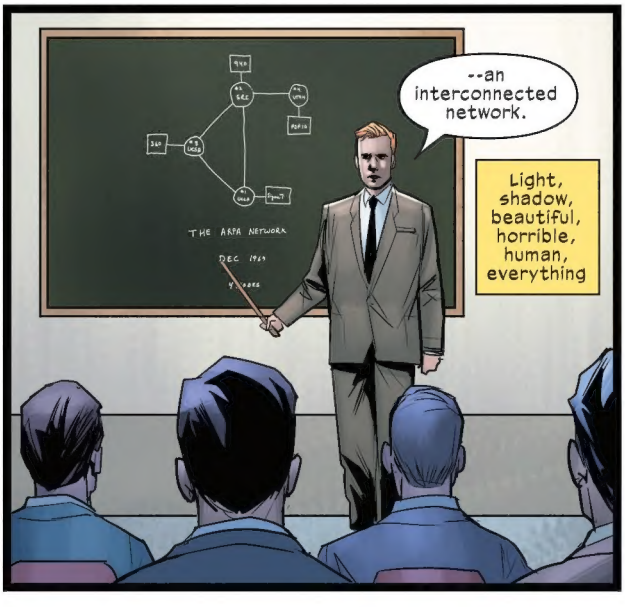
Message to all Ultimates: The H.A.N.D. Heli-fleet means to burn the free city of Detroit to the ground! Please stand by.
Number of H.A.N.D. Helicarriers (all classes) in service: 1,189.


Accessing... 72113945.hrt...
Keywords: past, secret, world, history, star, files, future, intelligence, knowledge, complete
UAW
I'm working on something big. But I want to avoid paperwork. All under the table. I'll pay double.
How many men do you need?
How many do you have?

To, be, where, not, gaps, amass, invest, invisible, infrastructure, ghost, machine

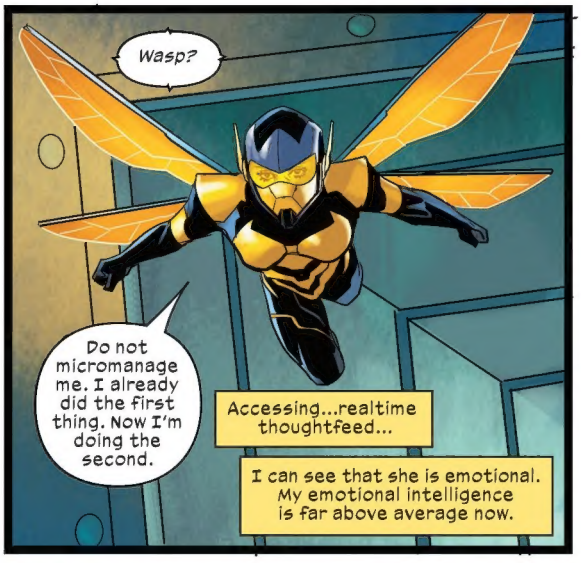
I mean, disbanding the United States? That just doesn't sit right with me...
Shouldn't we have a *say* in that?
Cutouts, think tanks, funding, organizations, intentionally ineffective, resources

Counteract, quiet, bribe, resist

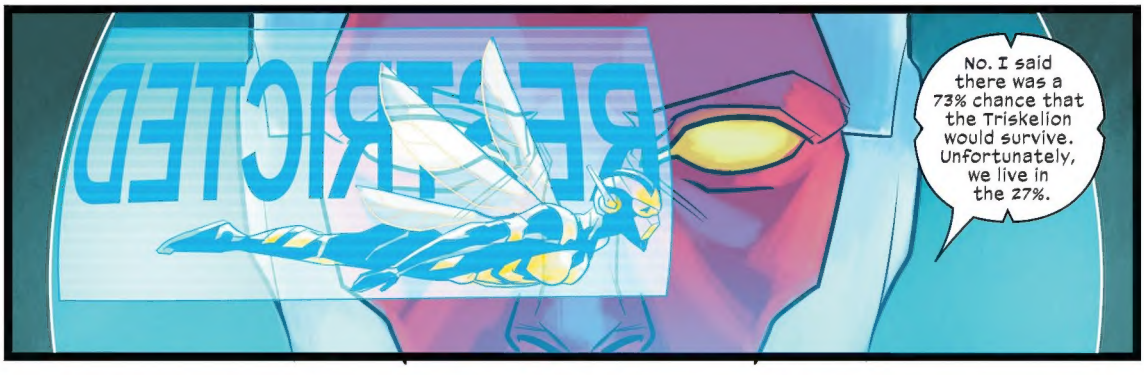

--an interconnected network.
Light, shadow, beautiful, horrible, human, everything
THE ARPA NETWORK
DEC 1969

Accessing... 02323432.hrt...
Repair, replace, upgrade, evolve, become
It echoes the philosophical conundrum commonly called the Ship of Theseus:
Is a ship still the same ship if all of its boards and planks and masts and rigging are replaced, one by one?
If it is different, at what point did it become something else?
Can something be the same, when part of it is different?
Different, same, me:
Janet Van Dyne...
Behold...!
New, vision

Sending enemy attack plans and up-to-date troop movements, Cage.
Much obliged. We'll be ready for them.
Sitrep, Wasp?

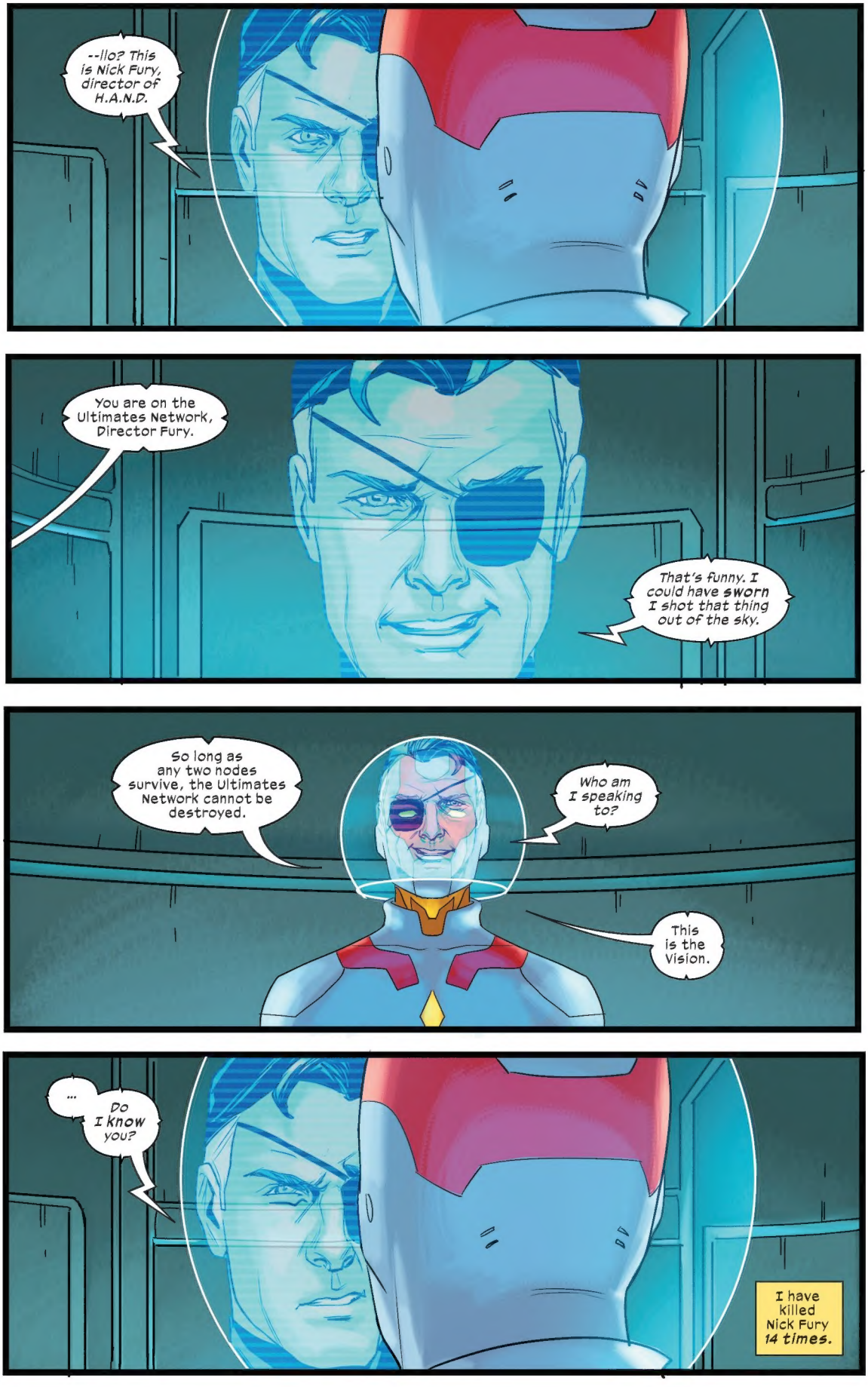

Wasp?
Do not micromanage me. I already did the first thing. Now I'm doing the second.
Accessing...realtime thoughtfeed...
I can see that she is emotional. My emotional intelligence is far above average now.

You are upset. About Hank.
No. Yes.
You told me they wouldn't hit the Triskelion. You said we'd have warning.

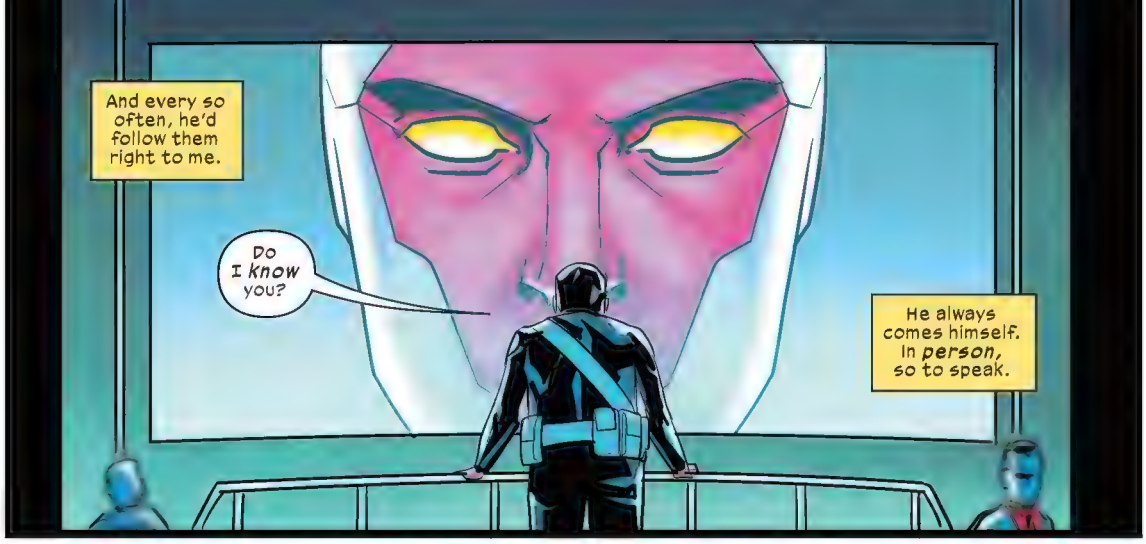

No. I said there was a 73% chance that the Triskelion would survive. Unfortunately, we live in the 27%.

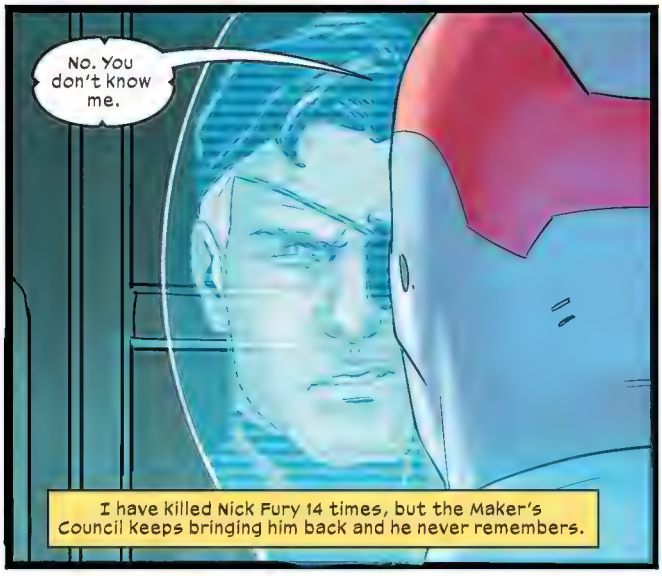
You made me into a murderer.
I only ever told you the truth. I can play it back for you, if you wish.

I...I don't know where he went.
Hank.
He disappeared. The look on his face...


--llo? This is Nick Fury, director of H.A.N.D.
You are on the Ultimates Network, Director Fury.
That's funny. I could have sworn I shot that thing out of the sky.
So long as any two nodes survive, the Ultimates Network cannot be destroyed.
Who am I speaking to?
This is the Vision.
... Do I know you?
I have killed Nick Fury 14 times.

Accessing... 2323423089.hrt...
I once burned him alive in the ruins of Attilan, surrounded by the corpses of Inhuman children.
When he discovered what I was doing in Detroit, I uploaded a digital worm via *sneeze* and watched him lose his mind in under a minute.
Fighting on the Blue Area of the Moon, I tore out his robotic heart. Something incomprehensible watched us from a distance.
This was our *pattern*, the hidden shape of history. We had our own private war all down the years, just the two of us. A *secret* war.
He could never even prove I existed. I was a ghost. I drifted through the world without leaving a trace.
But he had his suspicions.


And every so often, he'd follow them right to me.
Do I know you?
He always comes himself. In person, so to speak.

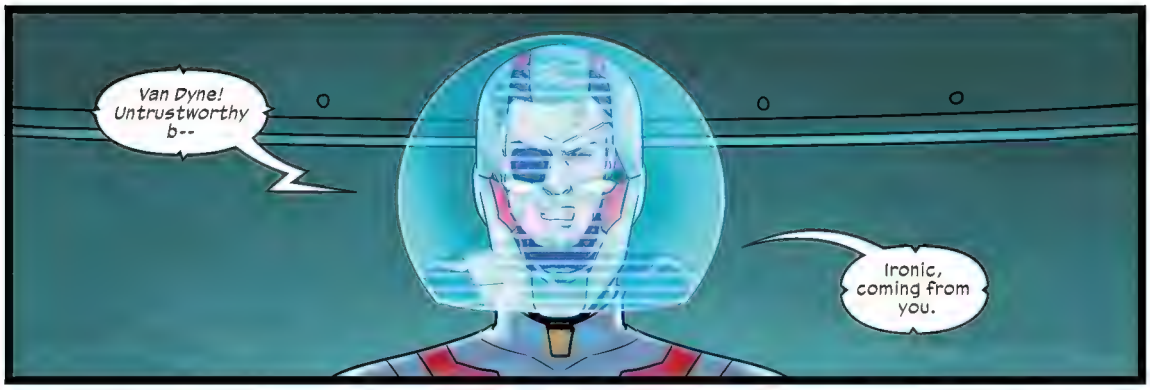

No. You don't know me.
I have killed Nick Fury 14 times, but the Maker's Council keeps bringing him back and he never remembers.

ZRRTTT

Well, "Vision," I've got your location. Detroit, right? That rusty old hole.
I'm on my way with friends.
I know.

"But I have friends too.
So... who wants revenge?

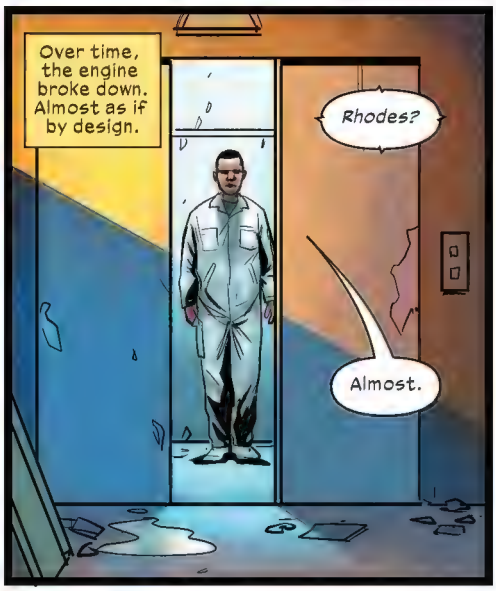
"And *you* have many ***enemies.***
"Putting dungeons in your warships was ***bad design.***"


Van Dyne! Untrustworthy b--
Ironic, coming from you.

That's it? That's your big play? Some escaped prisoners on a few Helicarriers? We have over a thousand carriers! We can afford to lose a few!
Number of H.A.N.D. Helicarriers: 1,004

Honey, I'm hoooooome!
Detroit was once one of the most important and affluent cities in the country, thanks to its legendary automotive industry.

It was where you went to build things. America's industrial engine.
Is everyone in position?


Over time, the engine broke down. Almost as if by design.
Rhodes?
Almost.

Sorry. Had to make sure everyone was clear.
-5
Thousands of skilled, dedicated workers, suddenly jobless. Engineers, mechanics, machinists, welders, electricians. They all slowly seemed to disappear.
They became ghosts. No one cared to ask questions.
27
I'm in!
27
It was difficult to hide our work. But difficult is what we do.
All systems ready!
62
The world forgot about Detroit once it had no use for it.
All battle stations occupied! We are good to go!
Then what are you waiting for?
I never forgot.

I remember everything. I remember every second.
Sir... something's happening down there.
Decades of heat and hammering underground, of sweat and steel and secret construction.
What?
Collaboration on a scale not seen since the moon landing, and all in secret.
It's the city, sir. It's moving!
Keep firing!
A network of ghosts.
You poor, trapped [redacted]. Maker's little war machine.
Well, War Machine...
"Sir, Detroit seems to be...

"...rising up."
...meet Anti-War Machine.
Number of H.A.N.D. Helicarriers: 935

This is the Network at work.
Evasive maneuvers! Track down the source of that signal!
I'm going to burn you and your network to ash!
Thousands working in perfect unison to operate it. Pooling talents and specialties.
Number of H.A.N.D. Helicarriers (all classes) in service: 743
If you only understood how stupid you sound. Me, burn?
KRAKOOM
Hurrggh!
Can you imagine?

What have you...? I...
You and I are two peas in a pod, Nick. Machines pretending to be people.
What...?

Denying who we are. Missing memories.
Well, Tony Stark fixed my memory. I thought I'd pay it forward.
What have you...what have I...? Lord...!

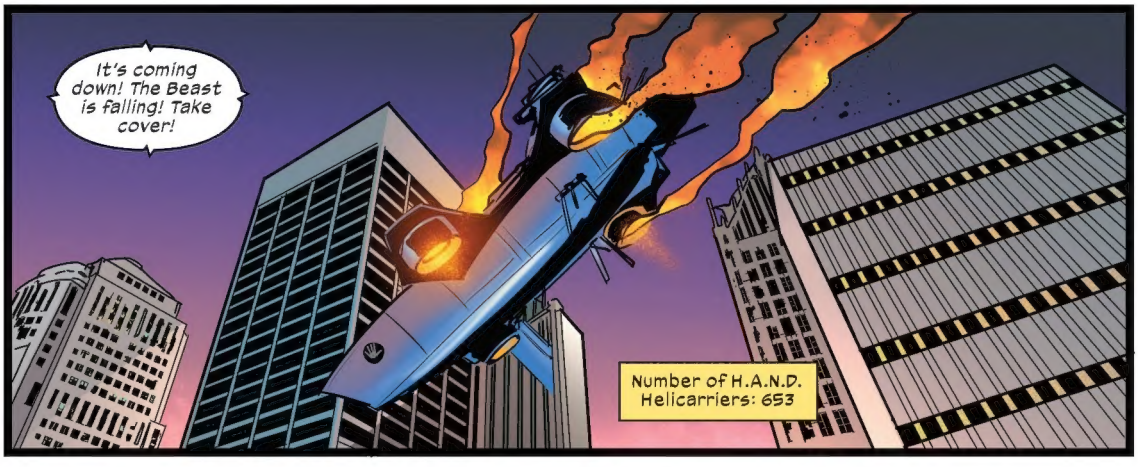
"Well, Janet helped. Actually, none of this would be possible without her."

It's a terrible thing to be without your memories. Like missing a piece of yourself. I know. Luckily, the Council saves everything.
Arggghhh!

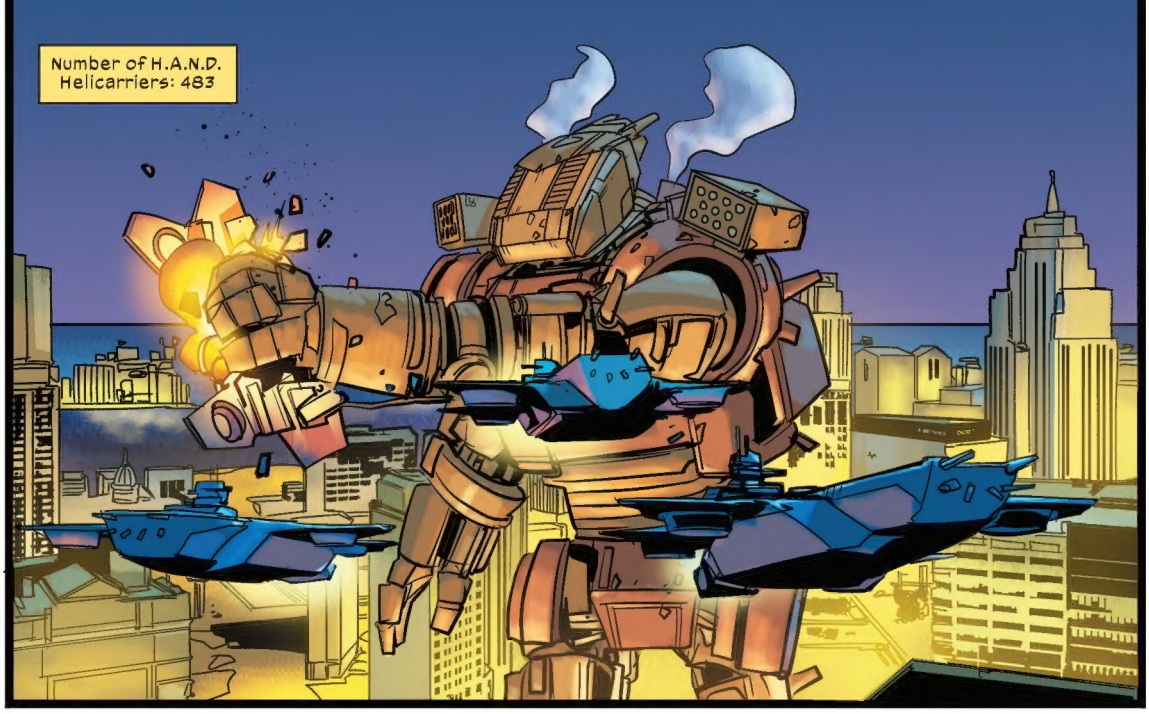
So here it is. Everything you've ever done. Everything you've been.
Hraughh! Hraaugh!!!

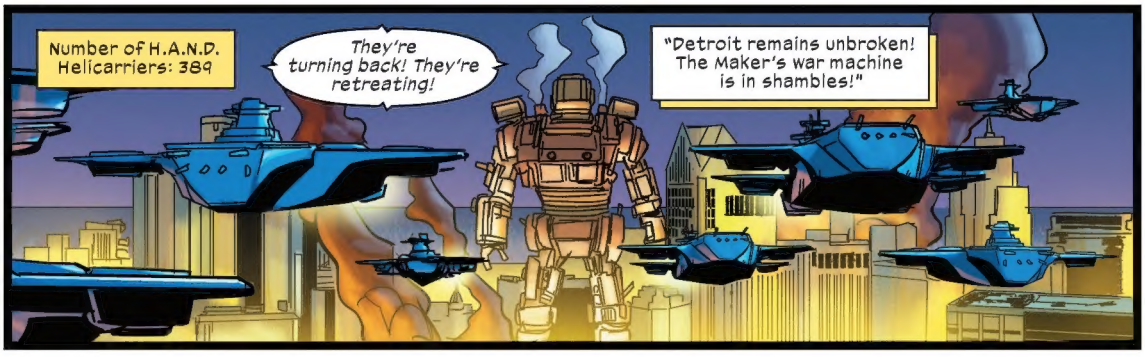
BLAM
I thought you'd feel that way.

ARRGH!!!
RAARGHHH!
Kill me!
"All of you."
Kill everything!
Make it stop!
RAWWW!


It's coming down! The Beast is falling! Take cover!
Number of H.A.N.D. Helicarriers: 653

Number of H.A.N.D. Helicarriers: 652
KRAKOOOM


Number of H.A.N.D. Helicarriers: 483


Number of H.A.N.D. Helicarriers: 389
They're turning back! They're retreating!
"Detroit remains unbroken! The Maker's war machine is in shambles!"

This is the Ultimates Network! We are bigger than they can imagine! And we are going to fix the world!
Ultimates unite!
ULTIMATES UNITE!
NEXT: AVENGERS/DEFENDERS WAR

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